

# Fact Sheet 2015

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon  
National Parks



Superintendent	Woody Smeck		
Important Dates	<u>September 25, 1890</u> : Sequoia National Park established		
	<u>October 1, 1890</u> : General Grant National Park established		
	<u>April 28, 1926</u> : President Calvin Coolidge designated the General Grant Tree the “Nation’s Christmas Tree”		
	<u>July 3, 1926</u> : Great Western Divide, Kern Canyon, and Mt. Whitney added to Sequoia National Park		
	<u>March 4, 1940</u> : Kings Canyon National Park established, General Grant National Park abolished		
	<u>March 29, 1956</u> : The General Grant Tree designated a national living shrine in honor of the men and women of the Armed Forces who have served, fought, and died to keep America free		
	<u>August 6, 1965</u> : Cedar Grove and Tehipite Valley added to Kings Canyon National Park		
	<u>November 10, 1978</u> : Mineral King added to Sequoia National Park		
	<u>September 28, 1984</u> : Sequoia and Kings Canyon Wilderness designated and Chimney Rock added to Kings Canyon National Park		
	<u>December 4, 2001</u> : Dillonwood Grove added to Sequoia National Park		
	<u>March 30, 2009</u> : John Krebs Wilderness designated and an expansion of acreage added to the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness		
	<u>March 4, 2015</u> : <b>75th Anniversary</b> of Kings Canyon National Park		
	<u>September 25, 2015</u> : <b>125th Anniversary</b> of Sequoia National Park		
	<u>August 25, 2016</u> : <b>Centennial (100th) Anniversary</b> of the National Park Service ( <i>Two-year celebration</i> ) ++ <i>Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks have been jointly-administered since 1943</i>		
Acres	Kings Canyon National Park:	461,901 acres	722 square miles
	Sequoia National Park:	<u>404,063 acres</u>	<u>631 square miles</u>
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>865,964 acres</b>	<b>1,353 square miles</b>
Wilderness Acres	Total designated and managed as wilderness: 837,594 acres /1,310 square miles (96.7% of the parks). Designated wilderness only: 808,078 acres / 1,263 square miles (93.3% of the parks).		
Combined Visitation	1,541,405* (2014) - This includes a 14.3% increase in visitation at Sequoia National Park.		
Base Budget	\$16,738,000 (October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015)		
NPS Staffing	Permanent: 230 (Varies) Temporary: 350 (Varies) Volunteers: 1,275 volunteers contributed 41,389 hours work (October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2014)		
Campgrounds and Picnic Areas	Standard sites (1-6 people, tents and/or RVs).....		14 campgrounds (1,196 sites)
	Mid-sized group sites (7-19 people) .....		26 sites
	Large group sites (12-50 people) .....		11 sites
	Picnic areas .....		12 picnic areas
	Make campground reservations at <a href="http://www.recreation.gov">www.recreation.gov</a> or call 877-444-6777.		
Park Roads	Primary (paved) .....		129 miles (206 km)
	Secondary (unpaved) .....		24 miles (38 km)
Trails	Total: 826 miles (1,329 km)		
Caves	275 caves, cumulative length of 35 miles		
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Kern River: North Fork (28.9 miles designated “Wild”)		
	Kings River: Middle Fork (29.5 miles designated “Wild”)		
	South Fork (24.1 miles designated “Wild” and 7.6 miles designated “Recreational”)		
Average Annual Precipitation	Ash Mountain:	26.8 in. total precipitation	(2.5 in. snow depth)
	Lodgepole:	45.8 in. total precipitation	(244.1 in. snow depth)
	Grant Grove:	42.4 in. total precipitation	(187.2 in. snow depth)

<b>Wildlife Species</b>	Amphibians:	12	native	1	non-native	13	total
	Birds:	204	native	12	non-native	216	total
	Fish:	8	native	13	non-native	21	total
	Mammals:	83	native	6	non-native	89	total
	Reptiles:	24	native	0	non-native	24	total
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>Native Species</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>Non-native Species</b>	<b>363</b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>

*\* Includes all species present, of unknown status, or extirpated in the park. (No longer exists in these parks but continue to exist elsewhere.)*

<i>Federal Listing</i>	Extirpated species:	3 (Foothill yellow-legged frog, grizzly bear, tundra swan)
	Federal endangered species:	3 (Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, mountain yellow-legged frog, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog)
	Federal threatened species:	2 (Little Kern golden trout, Yosemite toad)
	Candidate species:	1 (fisher)

**Plants** Total species & sub-species of vascular plants: 1,551 (26 deciduous tree species, 24 evergreen tree species)

<b>Giant Sequoia Statistics</b>	Largest tree .....	General Sherman Tree:	274.9 ft. tall; 52,508 cubic ft./volume
	Largest grove in Kings Canyon NP....	Redwood Mountain:	2,558 acres
	Largest grove in Sequoia NP.....	Giant Forest:	2,312 acres

*\* Dillonwood-Garfield Grove may exceed this; studies needed.*

Current best estimates are that roughly one-third of all naturally-occurring sequoias grow in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

**Interesting Facts**

- Sequoia National Park is the second-oldest national park in the U.S. (Yellowstone is oldest.)
- In 1903, Captain Charles Young led the Buffalo Soldiers and oversaw operations in Sequoia and General Grant national parks. He was the first African-American superintendent (acting) of a national park.
- Three of the top 10 oldest tree species in the world live here: giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)-3,266 yrs., western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*)-2,675 yrs., and foxtail pine (*Pinus balfouriana*)-2,123 yrs.

**Points of Interest** *(in alphabetical order by park)*

		<b>Elevation</b>	
		<b><u>Feet</u></b>	<b><u>Meters</u></b>
<i>Sequoia</i>	<i>Lowest point in the parks:</i> Middle Fork, Kaweah River (below Park Headquarters)	1,370	417.58
	Crystal Cave	4,540	1,383.8
	Foothills Visitor Center/Ash Mountain Headquarters	1,720	524.26
	General Sherman Tree	6,906	2,104.9
	Giant Forest Museum	6,409	1,953.5
	Hospital Rock Picnic Area	2,684	818.08
	Lodgepole Village	6,720	2,048.3
	Mineral King Ranger Station	7,580	2,310.4
	Moro Rock	6,725	2,049.8
	Mt. Whitney	*14,494	*4,417.8
	Pear Lake Ski Hut	9,200	2,804.2
	Wuksachi Lodge	7,057	2,151
	<i>Highest point along Generals Highway: Big Baldy Saddle</i>	7,600	2,316.5
	<i>*Highest point in contiguous United States. Exact elevation under debate pending ongoing study/analysis.</i>		
<i>Kings Canyon</i>	Cedar Grove Village	4,635	1,412.7
	General Grant Tree	6,355	1,937
	Grant Grove Village	6,589	2,008.3
	Panoramic Point	7,500	2,286

**More Info** Visit [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) or call 559-565-3341.